

## **POLICY ON WATER MANAGEMENT**

### **Rationale**

Water is vital to education, research, sanitation, and public health. The University of Mindanao recognizes the urgent need to manage water sustainably amid climate change, growing demand, and environmental degradation. This Water Management Policy affirms the university's commitment to efficient water use, pollution prevention, rainwater harvesting, and wastewater reuse. It aligns with national environmental laws, including the Clean Water Act (RA 9275). It contributes to achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), promoting access to safe water and sustainable water management practices across all campuses.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all academic, administrative, research, and auxiliary units of the University of Mindanao. It covers potable and non-potable water use, water conservation, water quality monitoring, stormwater and wastewater management, and infrastructure planning and operation across all university campuses.

### **Guiding Principles**

**Efficient Water Use and Conservation.** The university shall promote efficient water use through conservation campaigns, retrofitting of water fixtures, and behavior-based strategies. All university buildings and facilities must use low-flow toilets, water-efficient faucets, and leak-detection systems. Daily operations shall avoid excessive water use for cleaning, irrigation, or cooling. Awareness campaigns shall encourage students and employees to report leaks and conserve water in all areas.

**Rainwater Harvesting and Alternative Sources.** Rainwater collection systems shall be installed in strategic locations across campuses to supply water for toilet flushing, irrigation, and general cleaning. The university shall explore and adopt sustainable alternative sources such as deep wells (subject to NWRB regulations), graywater recycling, and condensate recovery from HVAC systems. Captured rainwater must be stored in designated tanks with first flush diverters to remove initial contaminants.

**Wastewater Management and Reuse.** All university campuses must comply with the provisions of RA 9275 (Philippine Clean Water Act) on wastewater discharge. Septic tanks and wastewater treatment systems must be regularly maintained and dislodged by DENR-accredited service providers. Where feasible, treated wastewater may be reused for landscape irrigation, construction, or non-potable cleaning in accordance with Department of Health (DOH) and DENR standards.

**Water Quality Monitoring.** Potable water used in canteens, laboratories, and offices must be regularly tested by an accredited laboratory to ensure compliance with Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water (PNSDW). The Pollution Control Officer shall monitor effluent

quality from laboratories and treatment facilities in coordination with accredited Environmental Laboratories to ensure compliance with DENR Administrative Order 2016-08 (Revised General Effluent Standards). Monitoring results must be submitted to DENR-EMB as required.

**Stormwater and Surface Runoff Management.** The university shall maintain proper drainage systems, open canals, and infiltration zones to prevent localized flooding and surface water pollution. Construction projects must incorporate stormwater detention basins, grassed swales, or permeable pavements. Surface runoff must not be allowed to carry sediments, oils, or debris into water bodies. Waste must not be disposed of into storm drains.

**Integration in Campus Planning and Design.** Water management considerations must be integrated into building design, landscaping, and infrastructure upgrades. All new facilities must include provisions for water metering, efficient plumbing systems, rainwater harvesting, and wastewater treatment or collection. The university's Physical Plant Management and General Services (PPMGS) shall work with the PCO to ensure compliance.

**Education, Research, and Community Engagement.** The university shall integrate water sustainability into academic programs and research initiatives. Workshops, forums, and extension projects on water conservation, pollution control, and community water access shall be promoted through the Research and Publication Center, the Center of Green Nanotechnology Innovations for Environmental Solutions, and student organizations. Partnerships with LGUs and agencies such as DENR, DOH, and NWRB shall be pursued to support community-based water solutions.

### **Compliance**

Compliance with this policy is mandatory. Non-compliance may result in disciplinary action or issuance of corrective actions as per university regulations with reference to OPM 32.14. Compliance with this policy is mandatory across all units and campuses. Violations such as unauthorized discharges, water wastage, or tampering with water fixtures shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with university regulations and relevant national laws. Oversight shall be conducted by the PCO and PPMGS and validated through internal audits and third-party inspections.

### **Implementation and Review**

This policy shall be implemented by the Pollution Control Officer (PCO) in coordination with the Physical Plant Management and General Services (PPMGS), as well as campus administrators. The policy shall be reviewed every two years or as needed to comply with changes in national regulations and institutional sustainability goals. The review shall be led by the PCO and endorsed by the UMESH-GD Council.

Signed:

**(Sgd) GUILLERMO P. TORRES, JR.**  
University President

### **Reference**

RA 9275 – Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004  
DENR DAO 2016-08 – Revised Effluent Standards  
DOH Administrative Orders on Water Quality  
PNSDW – Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water  
RA 9003 – Ecological Solid Waste Management Act